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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 1999

### *Change of Leadership for Air Guard "Highrollers"*

Several senior officers in the Nevada Air National Guard were recently promoted to new positions in the 152<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing, Reno, Nev., and Headquarters, Nevada Air Guard.

Col. James P. Steffle, Lt. Col. Laurence D. Matlock, Lt. Col. Robert Fitch and Lt. Col. Chris Anastassatos, have all been promoted to senior position for the Nevada Air Guard

Steffle, former Vice Commander of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing, has been promoted to the position of Director of Operations for the Headquarters, Nevada Air National Guard. Born in Baraboo, Wis., Steffle attended schools in Wisconsin and California graduating from Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights, CA in 1964. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California and a Law degree (JD) from the University of Pacific. He completed Air Command and Staff College in 1982 and Air War College in 1996.

Enlisting in the Nevada Air National Guard in April 1969 as a Photo Lab Specialist, Steffle was selected in 1971 to attend Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus AFB, Mississippi, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. His flying career has included operations in the RF-101 Voodoo, RF-4C Phantom, and currently the C-130 Hercules aircraft. He was squadron commander of the 192<sup>nd</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron and an instructor pilot in the "Phantom" before transitioning to the C-130 in 1996. He is currently a Command Pilot with over 3500 flight hours, 3000+ of those hours being in fighters.

Deploying with the 152<sup>nd</sup> Reconnaissance Group during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-91, Steffle flew 20 combat missions into Iraq and Kuwait.

Colonel Steffle is a traditional guardsman and has deployed overseas 10 times during his 29-year career. In addition to Desert Storm he has deployed to Europe, Korea and Australia.

Steffle's decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Medals, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, four Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Valor, six Combat Readiness Medals, National Defense Service Medal, South West Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabian Government) and the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait Government). He has also received the Nevada Distinguished Service Medal, two Nevada State Commendation Medals, Nevada Command Ribbon, six Governors Outstanding Unit Awards with Valor and 10 Nevada Air National Guard Overseas Ribbons. Steffle is a commercial airline pilot and lives in Reno.

Matlock, former Logistics Group Commander, has replaced Steffle as the Vice Commander of the Wing. Born in Glendale, Calif., Matlock was raised in Moore, Oklahoma where he attended school until graduating from high school in 1969. He moved to Southern California to

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attend Moorpark Junior College, pursuing a degree in Business Administration. He then transferred to Sierra Nevada College to continue his degree. He has completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College.

Matlock started his military career when he enlisted with the 146th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Van Nuys, Calif., Calif. Air Guard, in February 1970. He was selected for Undergraduate Navigator School and reported to flight training at Mather AFB in the summer of 1974. After receiving his aeronautical rating, Matlock returned to the Van Nuys Air National Guard, flying C-130's as a navigator. In November 1976, Matlock was accepted as a Weapons Systems Operator with the Nevada Air National Guard.

Since joining the Nevada Air National Guard, Matlock's assignments include scheduling officer, Chief of Training for the 192nd Reconnaissance Squadron and Commander of the 152nd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Matlock deployed with the 152nd Reconnaissance Group during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. During the deployment, Matlock served as both an operational Weapons Systems Operator and the CAM Squadron Commander.

His military decorations and awards include the Bronze Star Medal, two Air Medals, Aerial Achievement Medal, three Air Force Commendation Medals, Air Force Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, five Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with valor, Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Matlock lives in Reno with his wife and two children.

Also promoted, Fitch, former Logistics Squadron Commander has been moved to the Logistics Group commander position. And, finally, Lt. Col. Chris Anastassatos, previously in Public Affairs for the Air Guard Headquarters, is the new commander of the Mission Support Flight.